

Message Text

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TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, GW, GE

SUBJECT: SERB COMMENTS ON REDUCTION OF PRAS

AND ON CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF MLMS

1. CHIEF USMLM HAS PROVIDED MISSION WITH FOLLOWING REPORT (SENT SEPARATELY TO USAREUR AND USAFE) ON MORE SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF OCT 27 MEETING BETWEEN CHIEF OF FRENCH MILITARY LIAISON MISSION (FMLM) AND CHIEF OF SOVIET EXTERNAL RELATIONS BRANCH OF GSFG(SERB):

A. DISCUSSION OF STATUS OF REDUCTION OF PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED AREAS (PRAS) AND OPENING OF ACCESS ROUTE IN TWO SMALL PRAS SOUTHWEST OF JENA: CHIEF SERB SAID THAT MATTER WAS STILL BEING STUDIED PERSONALLY BY SOVIET CINC AND CHIEF OF STAFF IN WUNS DORF AND THAT ROUTE OPENING SOUTHWEST OF JENA WOULD NOT BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY (AS PREVIOUSLY STATED) BUT WOULD FORM PART OF PRA SURFACE REDUCTIONS CURRENTLY BEING STUDIED. CHIEF FMLM COMMENTED IN HIS REPORT: (1) TERMS USED BY CHIEF SERB SHOWED CLEARLY THAT GSFG WILL NOT RESPOND TO QUESTION POSED CONCERNING ACCORD IN PRINCIPLE PRIOR TO SIGNIFICANT
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REDUCTION IN TOTAL PRA SURFACE AREA; (2) IN BEING

FIRST TO PRESENT CONCRETE PROPOSITIONS, SOVIETS COULD TURN TO OWN ADVANTAGE POLITICO-MILITARY BENEFITS OF OUR ORIGINAL PLAN; (3) IT WOULD CONSEQUENTLY BE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR PLAN OF REDUCTION OF PRAS IN WEST GERMANY TO BE DRAWN UP BY THREE ALLIED HQS FOR POSSIBLE SIMULTANEOUS PRESENTATION WHEN SOVIET PLAN ANNOUNCED; (4) WHEN ASKED HOW LONG NEW PRA REDUCTIONS MIGHT TAKE, CHIEF SERB RESPONDED: "THIS QUESTION WILL BE RESOLVED SOON." CHIEF FMLM ESTIMATED THAT REDUCTION MIGHT BE ANNOUNCED IN 1976.

B. AT CONCLUSION OF AGENDA CHIEF SERB UNEXPECTEDLY ASKED CHIEF FMLM WHETHER HE THOUGHT THAT THREE MLMS WOULD EXIST MUCH LONGER. CHIEF FMLM REPLIED THAT QUESTION OF EXISTENCE OF MLMS WAS LARGELY ABOVE HIS HEAD AND ASKED IN TURN WHETHER CHIEF SERB HAD PERSONAL OPINION ON SUBJECT. LATTER'S RESPONSE WAS "MASTERPIECE OF EVASION." CHIEF FMLM THEN INQUIRED WHETHER CHIEF SERB HAD ANY INDICATION THAT QUESTION OF POSSIBLE RETRACTION OF MISSIONS WAS BEING STUDIED OR MIGHT BE BROUGHT UP AT HQ GSFG. CHIEF SERB SAID HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THIS. CHIEF FMLM COMMENTED IN HIS REPORT: (1) IS THIS ANOTHER "KITE"? (2) MIGHT THERE BE MORE TO THIS THAN MEETS THE EYE? IF YES, THIS QUESTION MIGHT BE TIED IN WITH THAT OF PRA REDUCTION WHICH WOULD ONLY BE FIRST STEP, NOT TOWARDS LIBERALIZATION OF SYSTEM, BUT RATHER HARDENING OF IT; (3) IN FACT, IF SOVIETS HAVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES IN FRG OTHER THAN THEIR LIAISON MISSIONS AND WOULD NOT SERIOUSLY BE HAMPERED BY THE CLOSING OF THESE MISSIONS, THEY KNOW THAT RETRACTION OF OUR MISSIONS WOULD HANDICAP US SERIOUSLY; (4) RECOGNITION OF GDR BY THREE SIGNATORY POWERS OF 1947 MALININ AGREEMENTS COULD BE USED AS PRETEST FOR RETRACTION OF SOVIET MISSIONS IN FRG, AS SOVIET AUTHORITIES COULD SUGGEST--SIMULTANEOUS WITH RETRACTION OF THEIR MISSIONS--THAT THREE POWERS ADDRESS SELVES TO GDR TO ESTABLISH MILITARY ATTACHES IN ITS TERRITORY.
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2. CHIEF USMLM COMMENTED ON ABOVE AS FOLLOWS:

A. PRA REDUCTIONS NOT LIKELY TO BE EFFECTED SOON. ALLIED SIDE SHOULD, AS CHIEF FMLM SUGGESTS, BE READY TO RESPOND TO GSFG MOVES WITH PREPARED REDUCTION (APPROXIMATELY 20 PERCENT), OR MAKE REDUCTIONS ON OWN INITIATIVE, IF AND WHEN

APPROPRIATE, IN 1976.

B. PERSONAL FEELING IS THAT ELIMINATION OF
MISSIONS IS LONG WAY OFF AND THAT CHIEF SERB WAS
SIMPLY EXPLORING. CHIEF FMLM MAY HAVE BEEN OVER-
REACTING. RECOMMEND ADOPTION OF WAIT-AND-SEE
ATTITUDE. GEORGE

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